

U.S. Department of Labor



Employment & Training Administration  
Office of Job Corps  
61 Forsyth Street  
Room 6T95  
Atlanta, GA 30303

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**CONTACT: Gertrude Lucas**  
**Jacobs Creek JCC**  
**(404) 562-2372**

### **JACOBS CREEK JOB CORPS CENTER GRADUATES 38**

BRISTOL, Tenn. – Jacobs Creek Job Corps Center graduated 38 students this week, with 15 students receiving high school diplomas. The diplomas were presented by Dell Gates, director of the Sullivan County Optional Academy.

For more than a year, thanks to a partnership with the Sullivan County School System, Jacobs Creek students have been able to receive high school diplomas in addition to their Job Corps training certificates.

“One of the main reasons that I came to Job Corps was because they had this program, and one of my priorities was getting my high school diploma,” said Sergio Romero, a culinary arts student at Jacobs Creek. “Getting my high school diploma means a lot to me. It will certainly help me progress and excel in life.” Romero received his high school diploma during this Friday’s ceremonies.

Charles Thomas, a Jacobs Creek graduate and brick masonry trainee, delivered the commencement address to a crowd of friends and family gathered to celebrate the achievements of this graduating class. A reception in honor of the students was held following the ceremony.

“We are excited to be able to give all of our students the skills and education they need to have successful careers,” said Jacobs Creek Center Director Fred Rowe. “These diplomas will allow them to compete in the job market. Instead of just having a job, our students will have careers.”

In June of 2001, the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) calling for increased cooperation between public schools and Job Corps, a DOL job-training and education program serving economically disadvantaged youth ages 16 through 24. Jacobs Creek was the first center in Tennessee to offer the high school diploma program.

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Established in 1964, Job Corps is the nation's largest and most effective job-training program, annually serving 65,000 participants. A federal program, its goal is to help economically disadvantaged youth find promising careers by providing comprehensive services in a residential setting, including education, vocational skills training and counseling.

There are 120 Job Corps centers nationwide, including 19 in Southeast-based Atlanta Region. For more information, call (800) 733-JOBS or visit [www.jobcorpsregion3.com](http://www.jobcorpsregion3.com).

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